

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In item 4 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 have been rejected as being anticipated by Jeong et al. (US Pat. No. 5,799,122) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

intermediate faces formed in **all four of** said transition regions; and  
a receptacle for receiving said holder along a longitudinal insertion direction, said receptacle having **four resilient inside contact areas, each exerting a resilient force on a corresponding intermediate face** of said holder.

Jeong et al. disclose a holder 25 with transition regions (corners) between the narrow side faces and the top faces and the bottom faces. Naturally, the number of the transition

regions (corners) is four. However, unlike the invention of the instant application, of these four transition regions only two have intermediate faces 27. Accordingly, the inside contact areas of the receptacle 40 only exert resilient forces A1, A2 on two intermediate faces 27 and a resilient force A3 on the bottom face (see Fig. 3B of Jeong et al.).

Clearly, Jeong et al. do not show a holder having intermediate faces formed in **all four of the transition regions** and a receptacle having **four resilient inside contact areas, each exerting a resilient force on a corresponding intermediate face** of the holder, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The invention of the instant application also cannot be deducted from the teaching of Jeong et al., because even if the other two transition regions (corners) had intermediate faces, they cannot be contacted by a triangular shaped elastic sleeve 40. This can be clearly seen from Fig. 3B of Jeong et al.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Jeong et al. and since claims 2-3 are dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 6 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 8 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Jeong et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over Jeong et al. and since claim 8 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement in item 7 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 4-6 and 10-18 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Applicants

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Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). Coupling device, comprising:

an optical fiber holder having a top face, a bottom face, narrow side faces between said top face and said bottom face, with transition regions formed between each of said narrow side faces, and each of said top face and said bottom face, respectively, and intermediate faces formed in all four of said transition regions; and

a receptacle for receiving said holder along a longitudinal insertion direction, said receptacle having four resilient inside contact areas, each exerting a resilient [forces] force on [said] a corresponding intermediate [faces] face of said holder.